(b) if so, the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) A proposal has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh requesting the Government of India to obtain the approval of the President of India to organise in terms of paragraph 3 (1) of the Presidential Order 1975 under Article 371 (D) of the Constitution, a single unified local cadre comprising of teachers in Government Schools, Mandal Parishad Schools and Zilla Parishad Schools in the State.

(b) The proposal is under examination.

Freedom of Religion Bill

354. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Himachal Pradesh Government has passed Freedom of Religion Bill;

(b) if so, the response of Government to this bill;

(c) which other States have also passed similar Acts, if so, the details thereof and the year in which they were passed; and

(d) whether Government intends to bring a Law, on the lines of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State of Himachal Pradesh has enacted the Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 2006 with the assent of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh. The Bill which was enacted into this Act was not received in the Ministry.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(d) There is no proposal before the Government.

Broadcasting Bill

†355. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Broadcasting Bill being formulated to control TV channels and FM Radio and by when it is likely to be introduced;

(b) whether guidelines would be issued by Government to keep a control over 'contents' and frequency being broadcast by FM Radio presently;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The proposed draft of broadcasting Services Regulation Bill is being consulted with States/UTs. The draft of the said Bill will be finalized once the consultation process is over. However it is informed that the Bill will take care of all issues of regulations of electronic media including content code. Since the consultations on the Bill are under process, no time frame can be given.

(b) to (d) As per the provisions of permission agreement private FM radio broadcasters are bound to follow the AIR Programme and Advertisement Code as amended from time to time.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

They are not permitted to carry any news and current affairs programs in their broadcast. Since the guidelines are already in place, no fresh guidelines are proposed to be issued. The assignment of frequencies and grant of wireless operating license for all wireless stations including FM broadcast stations by Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing of the Department of Telecom is governed by the Indian telegraph Act, 1885.

FDI in Broadcasting sector

†356. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating for increasing percentage of foreign capital investment in broadcasting sector of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the new proposal;

(c) what are the reasons for considering this proposal; and

(d) what is the approved percentage of foreign capital investment in broadcasting sector of the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) As per the present provision following foreign investment limits have been prescribed for different sub-sectors within the Broadcasting sector:

FM Radio	FDI+ FII invesment upto 20%
Cable Network	49% (FDI+ FII)
Direct-to-Home	49% (FDI+ FII) Within this limit, FDI component not to exceed 20%
Setting up hardware facilities such as up-linking HUB, etc.	49% (FDI+ FII)
Up-linking a News & Current Affairs TV Channel	26% 49% FDI+ FII
Up-linking a Non-news & Current Affairs TC channel	100%

Notification of service condition rules after constitution of Prasar Bharati

357. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after constitution of Prasar Bharati in 1990, the rules for regularization, transfer and other service conditions have not been notified so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether it is also a fact that after the formation of Prasar Bharati, Doordarshan and AIR have become a safe ground for IAS, IPS, CSS and IFS officers;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.